

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-82 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-17, 19-36, 39-49, 52-57, 70-74 and 77-82 are allowed; and claims 8, 9, 37, 38, 50, 51, 61, 68, 69, 75 and 76 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 3, 8, 9, 37, 38, 50, 51, 62, 63, 75 and 76 are amended to obviate informalities and/or for clarity, as the Examiner requested.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 8, 9, 37, 38, 50, 51, 62, 63, 75 and 76. These objected-to claims are amended, as outlined above, to obviate informalities and/or for clarity. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 58, 59, 63 and 66 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 08-031382 to Matsushita; rejects claims 60, 62, 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsushita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,700 to Strobl; and rejects claim 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsushita in view of PG Publication 2003/0184200 to Ookahara. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushita does not disclose or suggest "a diameter D2 of an opening end of the reflecting surface of the first reflecting mirror having a size that allows reflection of a boundary light of the light emitted from an end of an arc generating between the electrodes adjacent to the first reflecting mirror without interception by the second reflecting mirror," as recited in claim 3. Although the Office Action (see

page 3, first paragraph) asserts that Matsushita discloses this feature, it does not identify the portions of Matsushita where this feature is believed to be disclosed. In fact, nowhere does Matsushita disclose this feature, as discussed below.

An annotated Fig. 1 of Matsushita is attached for ease of discussion. Matsushita discloses a device having a first mirror 9, a second mirror 15, and a light-emitting tube 1 with electrodes 2a and 2b. See Fig. 1. The first and second mirrors 9 and 15 are configured such that part of the light emitted from light-emitting tube 1 may escape through a gap between the first and second mirrors 9 and 15, without being intercepted or reflected by the first and the second mirrors 9 and 15. Thus, as shown in the annotated Fig. 1 of Matsushita, a boundary light A of this part of the light, which is not intercepted by the second mirror 15, is not reflected by the first mirror 9. Therefore, Matsushita does not disclose or suggest "a diameter D2 of an opening end of the reflecting surface of the first reflecting mirror having a size that allows reflection of a boundary light of the light emitted from an end of an arc generating between the electrodes adjacent to the first reflecting mirror without interception by the second reflecting mirror," as recited in claim 3.

Strobl and Ookahara do not supply the subject matter lacking in Matsushita. Therefore, Matsushita, Strobl and Ookahara, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 3, and claims 58-60 and 62-67 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 58-60 and 62-67 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-82 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Figure 1 of JP 08-031382 (annotated)

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